

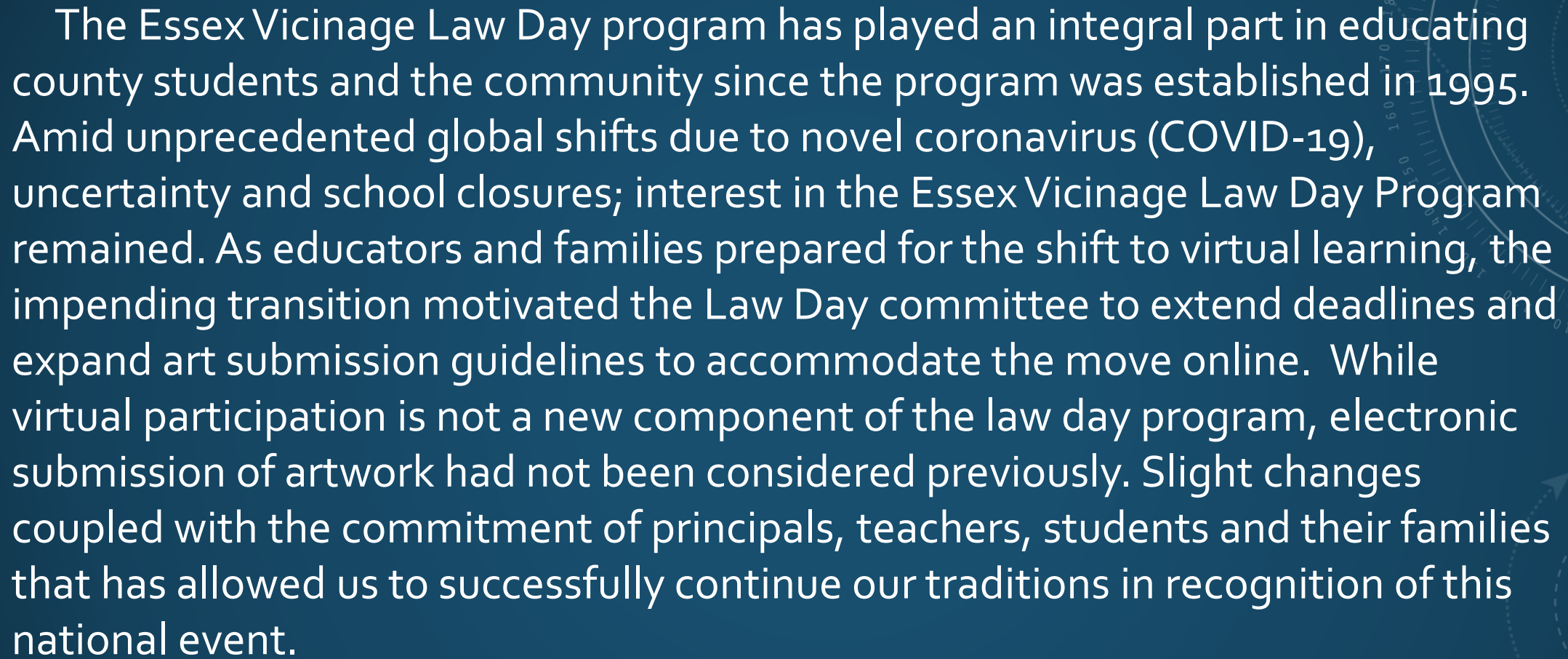


# New Jersey Courts

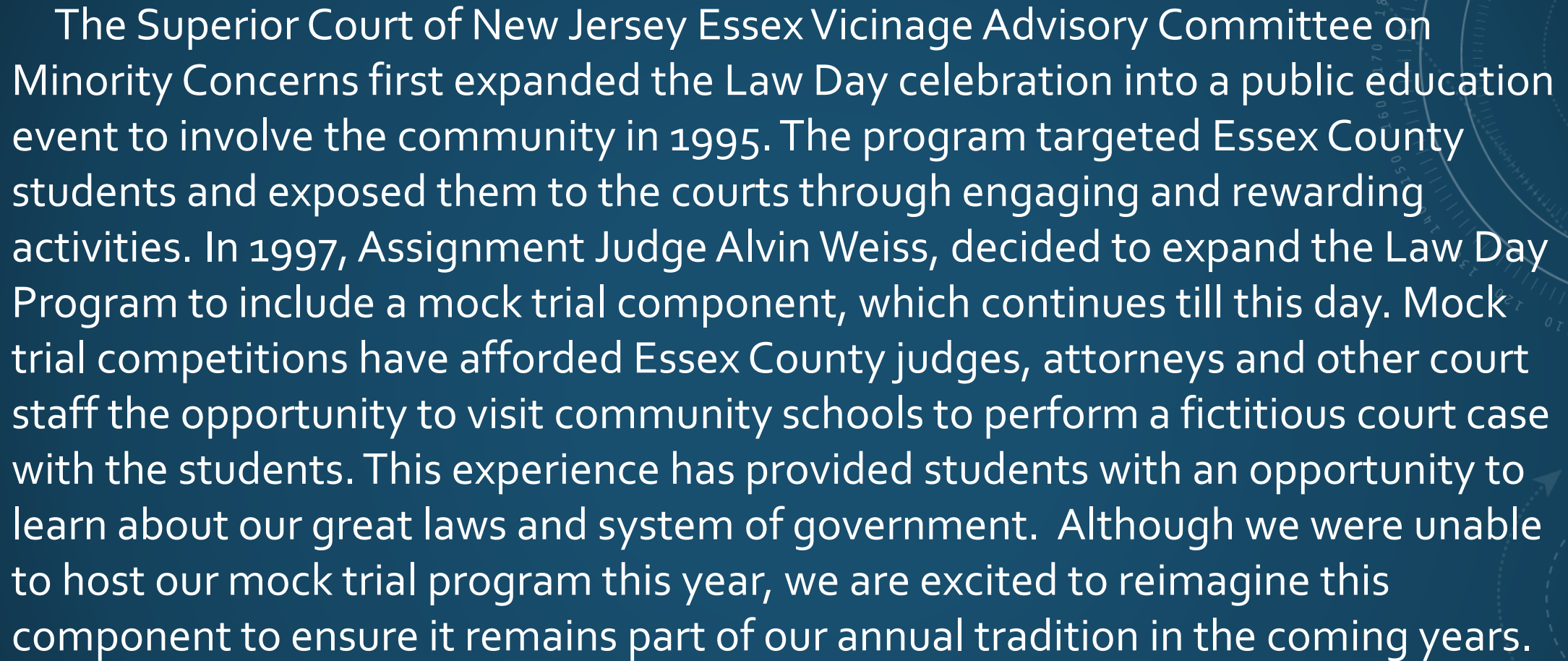
Independence • Integrity • Fairness • Quality Service

## ESSEX VICINAGE 2020 LAW DAY PROGRAM



The background is a solid dark blue. It features several faint, light blue circular patterns. On the right side, there are concentric circles with tick marks, resembling a clock face or a gauge, with numbers like 190, 200, 210, 180, 170, 160, 150, 140, 130, 120, 110, 100, 90, 80, 70, 60, 50, 40, 30, 20, 10, 0 visible. There are also some dashed circular lines and arrows pointing in different directions, creating a sense of motion or rotation.

The Essex Vicinage Law Day program has played an integral part in educating county students and the community since the program was established in 1995. Amid unprecedented global shifts due to novel coronavirus (COVID-19), uncertainty and school closures; interest in the Essex Vicinage Law Day Program remained. As educators and families prepared for the shift to virtual learning, the impending transition motivated the Law Day committee to extend deadlines and expand art submission guidelines to accommodate the move online. While virtual participation is not a new component of the law day program, electronic submission of artwork had not been considered previously. Slight changes coupled with the commitment of principals, teachers, students and their families that has allowed us to successfully continue our traditions in recognition of this national event.



The Superior Court of New Jersey Essex Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns first expanded the Law Day celebration into a public education event to involve the community in 1995. The program targeted Essex County students and exposed them to the courts through engaging and rewarding activities. In 1997, Assignment Judge Alvin Weiss, decided to expand the Law Day Program to include a mock trial component, which continues till this day. Mock trial competitions have afforded Essex County judges, attorneys and other court staff the opportunity to visit community schools to perform a fictitious court case with the students. This experience has provided students with an opportunity to learn about our great laws and system of government. Although we were unable to host our mock trial program this year, we are excited to reimagine this component to ensure it remains part of our annual tradition in the coming years.

The success of this program is attributed to the combined efforts of Essex Vicinage Superior Court, the Essex County Bar Association, the New Jersey Bar Foundation, the IOLTA Grant, and the Essex County Sheriff's Office. Both the bench and the bar look forward each year to the opportunity for judges and attorneys to interact with future leaders and discuss their perceptions of the legal system.

The hard work and dedication of the judges, attorneys, teachers, students and other volunteers is commendable. We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and look forward to your participation in future Law Day programs.

### **2020 Essex Vicinage Law Day Planning Committee**







The 2020 Law Day theme is

“Your Vote, Your Voice, Our Democracy:  
The 19th Amendment at 100.”

In 2019-2020, the United States is commemorating the centennial of the transformative constitutional amendment that guaranteed the right of citizens to vote would not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex. American women fought for, and won, the vote through their voice and action. The women’s suffrage movement forever changed America, expanding representative democracy and inspiring other popular movements for constitutional change and reform. Yet, honest reflection on the suffrage movement reveals complexity and tensions over race and class that remain part of the ongoing story of the Nineteenth Amendment and its legacies.

The Law Day 2020 theme urges all of us to explore these legacies while also encouraging citizens to exercise their rights and responsibilities as voters.

CONTEST WINNERS ...

You did it!  
*Congratulations*



1<sup>st</sup> Place

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By Alexandra Li  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade - Grover Cleveland Middle School



2<sup>nd</sup> Place

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By Dachelandy Chery  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade - University Middle School



3<sup>rd</sup> Place



By Marian Gueddes

12<sup>th</sup> Grade - Barringer High School

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# Honorable Mention



By Dylan Brooks

9<sup>th</sup> Grade - STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges

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# Honorable Mention

## CONTEST ARTS



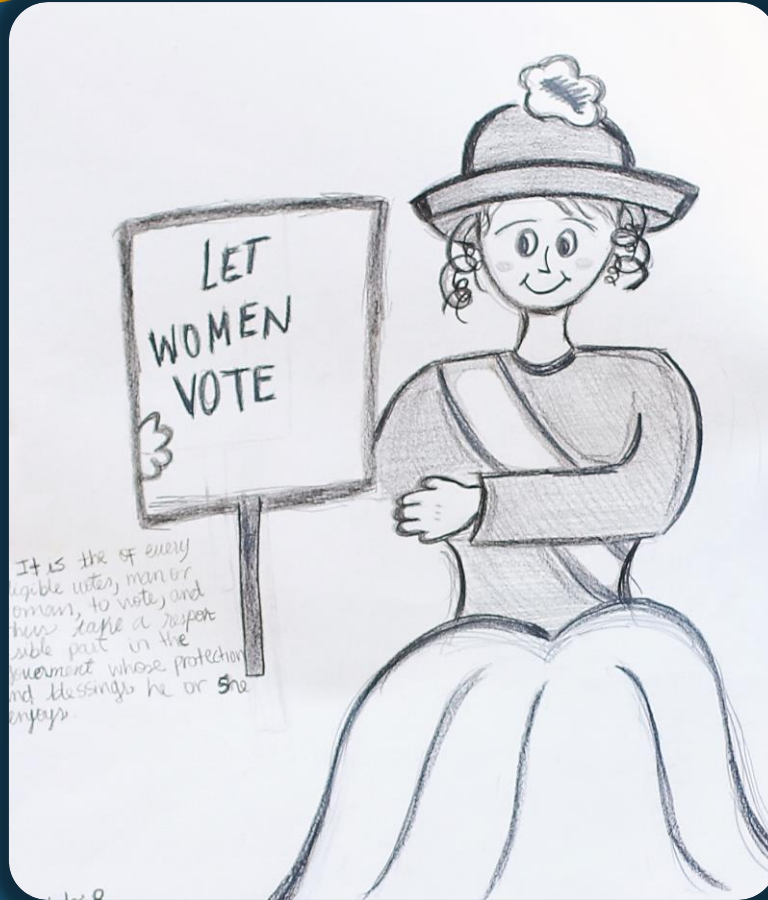
By Rebecka Francois

10<sup>th</sup> Grade - STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges



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Honorable Mention



By Zuleidys Bermudez  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade - Barringer High School

# W C R O I N T T I E N S G T

## 1<sup>st</sup> Place Essay

*Law Day Essay*  
By Eric Abankwa

8th Grade - Union Avenue Middle School



The 19th amendment, a period where women got the right to vote. The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. In 1919 this amendment was passed by Congress June 4, 1919. In 1920 this amendment was ratified August 18, 1920. The right to vote helped protect women's reproduction and economic rights.

First, many people throughout this period were against this law and didn't think women should have the right to vote including the president. So many women came together to create a group and persuade others. In 1917, the National Women's Party was formed to help fight for women's rights. Leaders such as Alice Paul and Lucy Burns organized protests in Washington. At the time, President Woodrow Wilson was against the 19th amendment. Alice Paul was arrested and sent to jail where she held a hunger strike. In 1918, President Wilson changed his mind and decided to support the amendment and on August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment was signed into law.

Many African American women joined suffrage organizations that addressed their specific experiences. Leading reformers including Harriet Tubman, Frances E.W. Harper, Ida B. Wells, and Mary Church Terrell formed the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs (NACWC) in 1896. The NACWC campaigned in favor of women's suffrage and improved education and fought against Jim Crow laws. This shows that this kind of oppression affected all races, leading to more organizations to combat this injustice in the United States.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the role of women in American society was changing drastically. Women were working more, receiving a better education, bearing fewer children, and several states had authorized female suffrage. In 1913, the National Woman's party organized the voting power of these enfranchised women to elect congressional representatives who supported women's suffrage. In 1916 both the Democratic and Republican parties openly endorsed female enfranchisement.

New Jersey gave women the right to vote on February 9th, 1920. This marks 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Other states like Virginia, ratified the 19th Amendment on February 12, 1952. That took thirty-two years to finally pass, along with Alabama accepting ratification on September 22, 1953. Thirty-three years after the passing of the 19th Amendment. What was surprising was Mississippi, finally passing the 19th Amendment on March 22, 1984. Another sixty-four years passed before finally officially allowing women the right to vote in that state.

Two years after the conclusion of World War I, Congress finally ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, guaranteeing the right to vote to all American citizens, regardless of sex. Finally, women across the nation would have an equal voice in the laws and politics that would govern them. This has had a major impact on society, because now women have a voice in the political process. They were able to shape government, society, and help inspire other movements. With a progressive society, many women have achieved their goals or even reached out for better. There is still room for improvement, that door will never close. The struggle for women continues, but with the passing of the 19th Amendment, it is a little less difficult for future generations.

# 2nd Place Essay

*Law Day Essay*

By Zion Stewart

7th Grade - University Middle School



Jeanette Rankin once said, "Men and women are like right and left hands; It doesn't make sense not to use both." Rankin said this quote in the 19th century where women did not have the right to vote. But that all changed with the 19th Amendment, by letting every kind of person vote. The 19th Amendment is important because it gives all American s the right to vote and it makes the world a little more equal.

The 19th Amendment makes the relatively new country of the United States have more equality for the different sex and races. People have been fighting for years and even going to jail just for equality and now they can finally be at rest from all this protest. New opinions spread all over the United States after the 19th Amendment was passed. For example, if it were not for women and their intellect, we would not have certain life-changing inventions today. One example is the fire escape which is pivotal to escaping dangerous fires which was created by Anna Connelly. If she would not have thought of putting a staircase by a window , most likely the people who survived a fire would have died. Women deserved to have the right to vote and equality dating back to the beginning of time due to their countless contributions made throughout the years.

In conclusion, the 19th Amendment is important just like our women too. Women helped create some of the greatest technological advancements in the world such as Google and YouTube. Women have been fighting for centuries and finally achieved a piece of the equality puzzle. Despite voting rights being granted to women, there is still gender and racial inequality today, and the fight for true equality continues.



# 3rd Place Essay

*Our Voice, Our Democracy, Our Vote*

By Ajanae Harris

8th Grade - Union Avenue Middle School



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The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution granted American women the right to vote. It was ratified on August 18, 1920, ending almost a century of protest. The 19th Amendment helped millions of women move closer to equality in all aspects of American life. Women advocated for job opportunities, better wages, education, sex education, and birth control. This landmark event was neither the beginning nor the end of the story for women and their struggle for the right to vote. Women were the first organized group to protest at the gates of the president's house.

In New Jersey women could vote as early as 1776. In 1790 the legislature reworded the law to say, "he or she," clarifying that both men and women had voting rights. Only single women could vote because married women could not own property. Many unmarried women voted in New Jersey in the 1790s and the very early 1800s. In 1797, the New Jersey government required voters to be free inhabitants. New Jersey was not alone in granting and then taking away the right to vote from women and African-Americans around the turn of the 1800s.

Each generation has its minority who vocally fights for change. Today, it seems that everywhere you turn there is another news story about the struggle for gay and lesbian rights, tax equality, or military service. One hundred and fifty years ago it was an even larger portion of the population's turn, women. Throughout the 19th Century and into the 20th Century, women fought for equal rights under the law and most importantly the right to vote. Women were also entirely shut out of political activity. In Great Britain, women were so bound to their husbands that under 19th century British common law, they were barely considered people at all.

In conclusion, I think everyone should have the right to vote. We all should have had and continue to have equal rights because it is fair treatment. For this reason many of these same women became vocal participants of the Women's Rights movement. People who are different from us and are of different genders should all have the same rights. We are all the same and should be treated the same.

# Honorable Mention Essay

*Law Day Essay*

By Faythe Thomas

7th Grade - University Middle School

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Khalil Gibran once said "Life without Freedom is like a body without soul, and freedom without thought is like a confused spirit. .. life, freedom and thought are three-in-one, and are everlasting and shall never pass away." So what is Freedom? Freedom is the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint. The 19th Amendment gave rights to all citizens of the United States to vote in 1920. By giving women the right to vote in 1920, the 19th Amendment opened up the door of equality between genders in the United States.

From this nation's beginning to 1920, women were being treated differently from men. Women were expected to stay in the house, clean, and take care of children. In the 1800's, women were represented as second class citizens without any true freedoms. In passing the 19th Amendment, women could now choose their future and feel the true sense of freedom of self-expression.

In the 1970's, women started taking on life-risking jobs such as joining the military, police and becoming firefighters. As well, while the men were at war in the 1940s, women joined the work force to help fight against overseas oppression. Women started attending universities to pave the way for their futures and created a generation of educated and inspired women.

The 19th Amendment gave women freedom. Women chose to become educated and became teachers, businesswomen, and titans of industry. Many women are thankful for this amendment because of its ability to create real freedom that women today have taken and utilized to their fullest potential. Today, women are in the work force, running billion-dollar companies, and showing the whole world that women can do anything men can do.

# Honorable Mention Essay

*The Fight for Equality*

By Jocelyne Soriano

8th Grade - Oliver Street School

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The 19th Amendment states "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." On August 18, 1920, the 19th amendment allowed women the right to vote. Since this amendment has been passed, women have been granted the opportunity to receive fairer wages, more job opportunities, and education. Women in the 19th century were known as "the weaker sex." They had to play a role as housewives and had no way to express their opinion without being degraded. Instead of pursuing a career and receiving equal education as men, women were expected to marry and have children. A woman's place was in the home, caring for her husband. Once a woman was married, she was the husband's property. (Crash Course) The husband would also have the authority of his wife's choices and property; however, property was a precondition to voting, and women were not allowed to own property, so they were cut off the political process. (Jessie Krats, p. 1) Without women's restless fights for equal rights, women wouldn't be in the position they are today. It is because of the women's tireless efforts that we can vote, go to college, and receive equal level employment. With that said, we also must be aware of the inequality's women are still facing today. Women can vote and receive an education, but they are still viewed as the weaker sex.

In 2019, women only made 79 cents for every dollar a male made. (Elkins, p. 1) Women today are still fighting for complete equality and we learned from our ancestors how to achieve this goal. For the past few years we have had women's marches and developed a #MeToo movement to prevent women from being overpowered by men. This is how the 19th amendment has impacted the lives of women and brought them closer to equality.



# 1<sup>st</sup> Place Poetry

*Century Wooman*  
By Keshima Smith

10th Grade - STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges



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"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall  
not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any  
State on account of Sex"  
Said the 19th amendment  
And their century's men  
To the 19th century woman  
"Here is hope."  
Said the 19th amendment  
To the 20th century woman  
"Here is history."  
Said the 19th amendment  
To the 21st century woman

And today  
I am grateful  
Today I respond to that amendment  
Filled with pride and purpose

I say, "Thank you."  
To the 19th century women  
Having taken advantage of the amendment  
Bearing the fact that their votes would change the course  
of history

I say, "Thank you."  
To the 21st century women  
Who continue to utilize our power  
And inspire girls like me who look up to them  
Without the 19th century women  
Urging their century's men to create the 19th  
amendment  
Without New Jersey's courage  
To be uncommon  
And allow women to vote even in 1776

There would be no 20th century woman  
There would be no 21st century woman  
No hope.  
No history.  
A lesser pride and purpose  
To be filled with on this day.  
Happy law day.

# 2nd Place Poetry

*Who Is She?*

By Nonye Obiora

7th Grade - University Middle School



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Abolitionist, and American Suffragist,  
Was a leader in the women's right's movement.  
Assertive, and loving you might say she is  
Then Who Is She?

Her Eyes,  
Dazed into pure sunlight, in pitch darkness  
Eyes like a visionary,  
Eyes of a dreamer,  
Eyes of a lover,  
Then Who Is She?

Her Words,  
Words of mouth, are words of capability and  
potential,  
Words of mouth, are words of warmth and  
tenderness,  
Words of mouth, are words of equity and integrity,  
Words of mouth, are words of assurance and  
commitment,  
Then Who Is She?

Her Mind,  
Thinks like an idea in the middle of the night.  
Her pace rather swift, though,  
Holds ideas securely and firmly,  
Then Who Is She?

Her Decisions,  
Hard to penetrate,  
Why?  
They're indestructible!  
Takes to heart,  
And puts them to play,  
Then Who Is She?

Her Voice,  
Demanding, yet settled and calm  
Settled, she might say  
"Yes we women are one!"  
Assertive, she might say,  
"Women and Men, were created EQUAL!"  
Then Who Is She?

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Poetry



## *Law Day Poem*

By Caroline Almaraz

8th Grade - Union Avenue Middle School

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Women's Right  
We will Always Fight  
For the greater good  
We know we should  
They just want to be heard  
Why would this occur?

They want their rights  
They have pride  
Their voices are being ignored  
So now they will shout even more  
Females are protesting  
Getting hurt and killed

Being forced to eat  
Going on hunger strikes  
Poor women being sent to jail  
And some went to heaven  
For being killed

They will raise their signs  
Way up to the sky  
Finally in 1920  
The 19th amendment was trendy  
It is "Women's right to Vote"  
Now the women can go home

No more dying  
No more fighting  
Finally after trying  
They go what they wanted  
They now can vote

So much inspiration  
We thank that generation  
If it weren't for them  
Many wouldn't be able to vote today  
Hip Hip Hurray!!!



# Honorable Mention Poetry

## *The Ceiling*

By Autumn Tarver

9th Grade - STEM Innovation Academy of the Oranges

She  
She whose thoughts dared to defy  
They resisted all that others believed she couldn't be  
As they looked up at the ceiling.

Yet thoughts were seemingly all she could live up to  
Until she spoke to all who would listen  
The many thoughts that dared to crack the ceiling  
Only managed to touch it.

Their thoughts, lingering in the air  
Contradicting their previous titles  
"Housewives, cooks, cleaners"  
It's about time, don't you think?

The oppressed spoke to the oppressors  
Their suppressed anger and frustration forced to be released  
The oppressors diffidently listened, doubtful of the success  
After many long years, the ceiling finally began to crack.

Thoughts were brought to fruition  
The oppressors faced the inevitable  
Ambition paired with irresistible urgency  
She changed the world with her head held high  
She changed the world, her thoughts held high.

1920 was the year the ceiling shattered  
The ceiling held sturdy for decades  
No one seemed to have had the audacity  
Until she performed the unimaginable , or until she dared to defy.

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# Honorable Mention Poetry

*Law Day Essay*

By Christ-Nathanael Benoit

8th Grade - Union Avenue Middle School

Women's Right  
They struggled for the fight  
Men said a women's job was cleaning the house  
But they weren't going to stay as quiet as a mouse  
Having their voices unheard  
They knew was utterly absurd

They should have taken note  
That women most certainly deserved the right to vote  
They deserved real pay  
Working just as hard as men every day  
For projecting their voices heard they were put in prison  
What disgusting treatment they were given

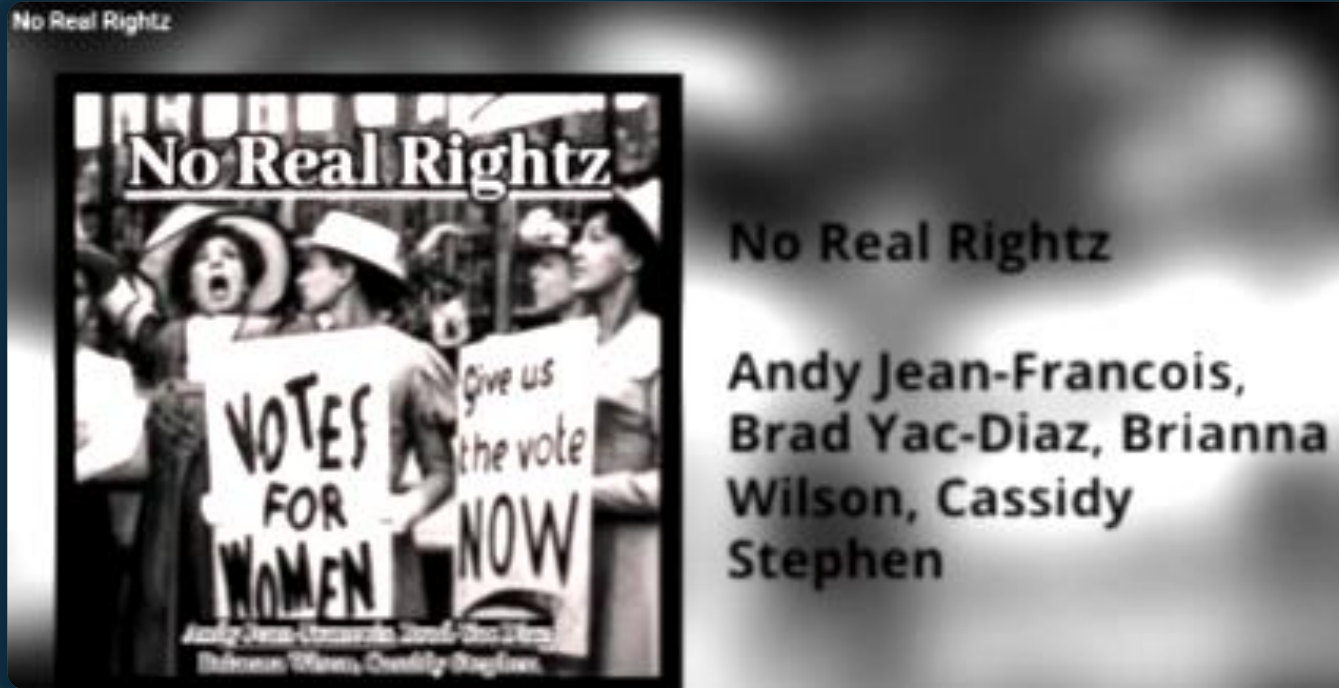
Force fed through a tube through the nose  
Why do u suppose  
Beaten and abused  
Why did it amuse  
The fight was finally won  
But the prejudice isn't done

We continue to fight  
They continue to try and deface us  
And we will always make a fuss  
Not because we are annoying or all those degrading names they call  
But because we will not take no for an answer and we refuse to fall  
The dawn of women's freedom will grow and grow  
And we will let you know!!!

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# 1<sup>st</sup> Place Video

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*No Real Rightz*

By Brad Yac-Diaz, Cassidy Stephen, Andy Jean-Francois and Brianna Wilson

10th Grade Students from East Orange STEM Academy

Click the link to view the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NokCKTOZ1Lc>



# Honorable Mention Video

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## 19TH AMENDMENT LET'S VOTE!

LYRICS BY HASAN CHERRY

*19<sup>th</sup> Amendment LET'S VOTE!*

By Hasan Cherry

3<sup>rd</sup> Grade - George Washington Carver Institute of Science & Technology

Click the link to view the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EeHI-M6GCbU&feature=youtu.be>

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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Essex County Bar Foundation

New Jersey State Bar Foundation

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



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For information regarding the  
Essex Vicinage 2020 Law Day program  
and future events visit

**WWW.NJCOURTS.GOV**

*At the top of the homepage go to "COURTS",  
under "County Courts" select "Essex"  
and at the bottom of that page click  
"Essex Law Day 2020".*